

## LESSONS 5 AND 6

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# More or Less

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## LESSON 5

*Satis eloquentiae, sapientiae parum.*  
Enough eloquence, too little wisdom.

Key Words		
attenuate	microbe	minutia
comply	microcosm	replete
expletive	minuscule	satiate
implement		tenuous

### Familiar Words

microfilm  
microorganism  
microphone  
microscope  
microwave

### MIKROS <G. "small"

1. **microbe** (mī'krōb) [*bios* <G. "life"]  
*n.* An organism invisible to the naked eye, especially one that causes disease.

Malaria is caused by a **microbe** that can be transmitted by the bite of certain mosquitoes.



**Challenge Words**

microbiology  
microclimate  
microfiche  
Micronesia  
microsecond

2. **microcosm** (mī'krə kōz'əm) [*kosmos* <G. "universe"]  
*n.* A miniature world; something that resembles something else on a very small scale.

A school community is a **microcosm** of the whole society in which it exists.

**microcosmic**, *adj.*

**Familiar Words**

diminish  
menu  
minor  
minus  
minute

**MINUO, MINUERE, MINUI, MINUTUM** <L. "to lessen"  
**MINUS** <L. "less"

3. **minuscule** (mīn'ə skyool')  
*adj.* Extremely small.

The dollhouse was furnished in every detail, including **minuscule** silverware and napkin rings.

**Challenge Words**

mince  
minuet

4. **minutia** (mī nōō'shē ə, mī nōō'shə, mī nyōō'shə;  
plural **minutiae**: mī nōō'shē ē')

*n.* A small or trivial detail.

A seemingly insignificant **minutia**—like a fragment of bone or a pottery chip—can yield important information at an archeological site.

**Challenge Word**

extenuate

**TENUO, TENUARE, TENUAVI,  
TENUATUM** <L. "to make thin"  
**TENUIS** <L. "thin"

5. **attenuate** (ə ten'yōō āt) [*at* = *ad* <L. "to," "toward"]  
*tr. v.* 1. To make slender or small.

Famine had **attenuated** the population of the village to a few dozen people.

2. To weaken; to reduce in force or value.

The forest of tall trees **attenuated** the force of the gale before it hit the town.

6. **tenuous** (tēn'yōō əs)  
*adj.* 1. Thin in form.

The spider spun a web of **tenuous** threads.

2. Flimsy; having little substance or validity.

Most students have only a **tenuous** grasp of economics.

**tenuously**, *adv.*



**Familiar Words**

asset  
satisfaction  
satisfy

**SATIS** <L. "enough"**7. satiate** (sā'shē āt)

*tr. v.* To satisfy an appetite fully; to gratify to excess.

During our stay in Italy we **satiated** ourselves on art, opera, and pasta.

**satiation**, *n.*; **satiety** (sə tī'ī tē), *n.*

**Familiar Words**

accomplish  
complete  
plenty  
replenish  
supply

**IMPLEO, IMPLERE, IMPLEVI, IMPLETUM** <L. "to fill"  
**PLENUS** <L. "full"**8. comply** (kəm plī')

[*com* = *cum* <L. intensifier]

*intr. v.* To do as one is asked or ordered.

Many historians believe the civil rights movement began in earnest when Rosa Parks refused to **comply** with the law requiring black people to sit in the back of the bus.

**compliance**, *n.*; **compliant**, *adj.*; **compliance**, *n.*

**9. implement** (īm'plə mənt)

[*im* = *in* <L. intensifier]

*n.* A tool or utensil.

Inventor Cyrus McCormick's **implement** for harvesting grain, the "McCormick reaper," revolutionized nineteenth-century agriculture.

*tr. v.* To carry out; to put into effect.

Using old newspapers and yearbooks, we were able to **implement** our project to trace the history of our school.

**Challenge Words**

plenary  
plenipotentiary  
plenitude  
plenum

**10. replete** (rī plēt')

[*re* <L. "again"]

*adj.* 1. Well-stocked or abundantly supplied.

I like a novel **replete** with suspense and danger.

2. Completely filled; utterly satisfied.

**Replete** with Thanksgiving dinner, we agreed to postpone doing the dishes.

**repletion**, *n.*; **repletely**, *adv.*



11. **expletive** (ěk'splī tīv) [*ex* < L. "out"]

*n.* An exclamation or oath, especially obscene.

Although we couldn't speak their language, we could tell they were uttering angry **expletives** at us.

**expletory**, *adj.*

## EXERCISE 5A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. to **satiate** one's hunger a. vaunt b. satisfy c. lessen d. fail to satisfy e. duplicate
2. regard as a **microcosm** a. substitute b. reduced version c. distortion d. vacuity e. minor problem
3. to **implement** a plan a. enlarge b. carry out c. form d. criticize e. negate
4. utter a loud **expletive** a. insult b. belch c. monologue d. exclamation e. refusal
5. inhabited by primitive **microbes** a. insects b. recluses c. microcosms d. humans e. organisms

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

6. to feel **replete** a. satiated b. sentimental c. empty d. regretful e. reclusive
7. a(n) **minuscule** portion a. tasteful b. enormous c. unilateral d. thrifty e. delicious
8. a **tenuous** friendship a. new b. totalitarian c. firm d. weak e. sensitive
9. a(n) **compliant** nature a. obedient b. lazy c. rebellious d. frightened e. catholic
10. concerned with **minutiae** a. oneself b. petty facts c. time d. nihilism e. large concepts

## EXERCISE 5B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. **Minuscule** particles of frost reflected the sun's light.  
 b. Only a **minuscule** proportion of students today studies Greek.  
 c. Rural Americans often attended a one-room **minuscule**.  
 d. This film can detect even a **minuscule** ray of light.